Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A storage system, comprising:

a plurality of storage regions which include a first group having a first plurality of storage regions and a second plurality of storage regions ~~being used to maintain consistency among data stored in the first plurality of storage regions~~;

a plurality of disk drive units having a plurality of disk drives which include the plurality of storage regions; and a controller configured to be coupled to an information processing device and to transfer data sent from the information processing device to the plurality of storage regions;

wherein the controller is configured to

receive a split command sent to the first group;

start, in accordance with the split command, changing from a first status to a second status in which a relationship between the first plurality of storage regions and a second plurality of storage regions related to the first group is split;

receive a write command sent from the information processing device to a first storage region of the first plurality of storage regions during a period of changing from the first status to the second status;

write data related to the write command to the first storage region after being able to copy data stored in the first storage region to a second storage region of the second plurality of storage regions; and

complete changing from the first status to the second status after writing data related to the write command to the first storage region; and

wherein consistency of data stored in the second plurality of storage regions in the second status is maintained.

14. (previously presented) A storage system according to claim 13, wherein the controller splits in order each relationship between each of the first plurality of storage regions and each of the second plurality of storage regions during changing from the first status to the second status.

15. (previously presented) A storage system according to claim 13, wherein, in accordance with receiving the write command, the controller checks whether a relationship between the first storage region and the second storage region is split.

16. (previously presented) A storage system according to claim 13, wherein the controller is able to copy data stored in the first storage region to the second storage region in case of receiving the write command and not splitting a relationship between the first storage region and the second storage region.

17. (previously presented) A storage system according to claim 13, wherein the controller is not able to copy data stored in the first storage region to the second storage region in case of receiving the write command and splitting a relationship between the first storage region and the second storage region.

18. (previously presented) A storage system according to claim 13, wherein:

the controller splits in order each relationship between each of the first plurality of storage regions and each of the second plurality of storage regions during changing from the first status to the second status; and

the controller splits a relationship between the first storage region and the second storage region faster than a relationship between a third storage region of the first plurality of storage regions and a fourth storage region of the second plurality of storage regions in accordance with receiving the write command, the relationship between the first storage region and the second storage region and the relationship between the third storage region and the fourth storage region being not split in case of receiving the write command.

19. (previously presented) A storage system according to claim 13, wherein the controller receives a write command or a read command sent to the second storage region.

20. (previously presented) A storage system according to claim 13, wherein the first status is a pair status in which data stored in the first plurality of storage regions are updated to the second plurality of storage regions.

21. (previously presented) A storage system according to claim 13, wherein the relationship between the first plurality of storage regions and the second plurality of storage regions is split and consistency among data stored in the first plurality of storage regions is maintained and consistency among data stored in the second plurality of storage regions is maintained.

22. (currently amended) A storage system according to claim 13, wherein:

the plurality of storage regions include a second group having a [[plurality of]] third plurality of storage regions and a fourth plurality of storage regions ~~being used to maintain consistency among data stored in the third plurality of storage regions~~; [[and]]

a relationship between the third plurality of storage regions and a fourth plurality of storage regions related to a third group is split based on another split command; and

consistency of data stored in the fourth plurality of storage regions is maintained.

23. (previously presented) A storage system according to claim 13, wherein the storage regions comprise a plurality of logical volumes.

24. (currently amended) A storage system, comprising:

a plurality of storage regions which include a consistency group having a first plurality of storage regions and a second plurality of storage regions, the consistency group being used to maintain consistency among data stored ~~in the first plurality of storage regions and being used to maintain consistency among data stored~~ in the second plurality of storage regions;

a plurality of disk drive units having a plurality of disk drives which include the plurality of storage regions; and

a controller configured to be coupled to an information processing device and to transfer data sent from the information processing device to the plurality of storage regions;

wherein the controller is configured to

receive a split command sent to the consistency group, the split command being used to split a relationship between the first plurality of storage regions and the second plurality of storage regions;

start changing to a split status in which a relationship between the first plurality of storage regions and the second plurality of storage regions is split;

receive a write command sent from the information processing device to a first storage region of the first plurality of storage regions after starting to change to the split status;

be able to copy data stored in the first storage region to a second storage region of the second plurality of storage regions after receiving the write command; and

write data related to the write command to the first storage region after being able to copy data.

25. (currently amended) A storage system, comprising:

a plurality of storage regions which include a consistency group having a first plurality of storage regions and a second plurality of storage regions, in which a consistency among data stored in [[a first]] the second plurality of storage regions ~~of the plurality of storage regions maintains~~ is maintained, if a relationship between the first plurality of storage regions and [[a]] the second plurality of storage regions ~~related to the first plurality of storage regions~~ is split;

a plurality of disk drive units having a plurality of disk drives which include the plurality of storage regions; and

a controller configured to control transfer of data to the plurality of storage regions;

wherein the controller is configured to

receive a split command sent to the consistency group, the split command being used to split a relationship between the first plurality of storage regions and the second plurality of storage regions;

start changing to a split status in which the relationship between the first plurality of storage regions and the second plurality of storage regions is split;

receive a write command sent to a first storage region of the first plurality of storage regions after starting to change to the split status;

be able to copy data stored in the first storage region to a second storage region of the second plurality of storage regions in accordance with the received write command; and

write data related to the write command to the first storage region after being able to copy data.

26. (previously presented) A storage system, comprising:

a plurality of storage regions which include a consistency group in which a relationship between a first plurality of storage regions of the plurality of storage regions and a second plurality of storage regions related to the first plurality of storage regions is split based on a received split command, the split command being used to split the relationship between the first plurality of storage regions and the second plurality of storage regions;

a plurality of disk drive units having a plurality of disk drives which include the plurality of storage regions; and

a controller configured to control transfer of data to the plurality of storage regions;

wherein the controller is configured to

receive the split command sent to the consistency group;

start changing to a split status in which the relationship between the first plurality of storage regions and the second plurality of storage regions is split;

receive a write command sent to a first storage region of the first plurality of storage regions after starting to change to the split status;

copy data stored in the first storage region to a second storage region of the second plurality of storage regions in accordance with the received write command; and

write data related to the write command to the first storage region after copying the data.